

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

**APPROVED 5/10/10**

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Town Council Meeting at the Community Center, 346 Judson Street, on Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

President Bollin opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President Bollin, Vice President Arruda, Councilor Costa, Councilor Durfee, Councilor Lambert, Councilor Leonard and Councilor Roderick

Town Administrator James Goncalo and Town Solicitor Andrew M. Teitz were also present.

Town Clerk Nancy L. Mello was absent.

All Council Members Waived Notice

**Possibility of Delaying the Financial Town Meeting**

President Bollin noted the legislature signed the bill allowing cities and towns the ability to postpone the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) for 90 days.

Councilor Roderick made a motion to postpone the Financial Town Meeting for 90 days to the closest Saturday, hence from the original FTM date, for clarification July 31<sup>st</sup>. Councilor Costa seconded the motion for discussion.

Councilor Durfee wanted to discuss the pros and cons.

Administrator Goncalo noted don't know all the revenue information, whether the State is going to allow for reimbursement for Motor Vehicle tax, better idea for State numbers if postponed. On the other hand the Town knows everything except revenue, there is momentum for the FTM, should the need arise a Special FTM could be called, up to the Council. Hopefully legislation would come however if the meeting were to be held in July attendance might be an issue. Representative John Edwards noted the State had to have a budget by the end of June. Councilor Leonard noted broader issues, the economy is no guarantee, communication issue with changing a meeting three days from now and the scheduled meeting and money has already been spent to hold the meeting. Councilor Arruda noted the School Dept. was also holding a meeting, delaying could impact that dept. significantly.

Councilor Roderick noted the Budget Committee has presented a budget, whether we like the numbers or not, can be changed on the floor of the Town meeting. Councilor Lambert did not have confidence in the General Assembly and what they may or may not do and the Town will have to look out for itself. Tax Assessor Dave Robert's concern was with mailing of the tax bills, and a possible additional expense. Solicitor Teitz noted the Town Clerk would need to have another voter list certified 30 days prior to any meeting. Councilor Durfee questioned the Solicitor about the authority to send out tax bills. Solicitor Teitz has researched, there is no case law on this issue, statutorily have the authority to spend money of the same vote, same budget, believes the authority inherit to tax, levy at the FTM, first quarter would be repeated Nothing prohibits or grants, inherit power.

Councilor Costa conducted a straw vote poll of the audience; most wanted the meeting as scheduled. Resident Laura Epke questioned if another FTM would be needed, to change the levy, if the State allows the Town the ability to tax Motor Vehicles. Point being the levy should reflect how the Town funds expenses. President Bollin noted that would be a revenue item and could also have a Special FTM. Dave Robert noted the tax levy vote is a range, General Assembly changes could affect. President Bollin noted if the Budget passes the levy would be set based on those numbers generating the tax rate. If additional revenue comes in there are two resolutions on docket as to how additional funds might be handled, as rebate or back to general fund. Budget voted at FTM will determine rate.

Superintendent William Rearick indicated the School Committee has not taken an official position. If the FTM were held after June 30<sup>th</sup> the School Dept. would have serious financial problems. Councilor Leonard moved the question.

On the motion to postpone the Financial Town Meeting until July 31st, failed. All Councilors opposed.

Councilor Leonard made a motion, to have the Financial Town Meeting as scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday May 8, 2010. Seconded by Councilor Roderick motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilor Costa made a motion, seconded by Councilor Leonard to adjourn the Special Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Leona L. Cook, Clerk

**A True Copy.**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_ Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk